COLLABORATION IN THE MODERN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

**Commonalities**

Collaboration is “to work jointly on an activity, especially to produce or create something”

Large-scale incidents require cross-sector collaboration for effective response and recovery – public sector, private sector, and nonprofit sector

Today’s presentation will focus on several lessons learned and a brief case study from a major American city
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The Short Version

Ultimately, collaboration may be seen as a *force multiplier* – magnifying the impact of multiple organizations, units, or assets by combining resources and skillsets.

We can begin by examining a handful of key factors which have proven successful during the start up of multiple previous efforts.
A Few Collaboration “Lessons Learned”

- Set common objectives
- Establish structure and operating parameters
- Identify potential partners
- Set meeting/planning frequency and format
- Identify specific goals and projects
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Successful Collaboration

Starting a cross-sector collaborative effort is a challenging endeavor. Yet success on a number of levels is required to keep it going. Successful collaborative bodies often share a number of identifiable traits.
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Collaboration Successful Traits

• Meeting on a regular basis
• Tangible progress and outcomes
• All members contribute
• All members benefit
• New tasks and projects
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Building Bridges – The Intangibles

- Personalities matter nearly as much as qualifications
- Training and exercises will increase interaction
- Association of associations, network of networks
- Interface with the local emergency operations center
Collaboration in a Major U.S. Jurisdiction

- As in many large cities, cross-sector collaborative efforts are vital to Chicago’s emergency management.
- A number of specific projects provide valuable case studies applicable to other jurisdictions.
Brief Case Study: Chicago

• With a population of just under 3 million, the city of Chicago is the third-largest in the nation, and the largest in FEMA Region V

• Local oversight is provided by the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC)
Case Study: Chicago

- In 2010, the OEMC launched a collaborative effort called the Critical Infrastructure Resiliency Task Force (CIRTF)
- The original group consisted of public-sector agencies, private-sector critical infrastructure owners and operators, and active nonprofits
Case Study: Chicago

• In 2012, Chicago hosted the NATO Summit, demanding immense planning for hazards including civil unrest and terrorism

• As a part of the after-action process, the CIRT F was rebranded and expanded to the Chicago Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF)
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Case Study: Chicago

**CPPTF Membership Includes**

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Fire/EMS</td>
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Case Study: Chicago

• Tangible projects are crucial. Specific efforts at collaboration include:
  • Business Recovery Access Program (BRAP)
  • Central Business District Evacuation/Shelter Plans
  • Joint Cross-Sector Drills and Exercises
Conclusions

• Cross-sector collaboration is not a convenience for urban centers – it is a necessity

• Collaboration begins with common objectives and an established structure

• Traits of successful efforts include tangible progress and outcomes, and input and benefit for all members
Conclusions

• Brief case study in Chicago provides real-world examples
  • The Chicago Public Private Task Force evolved from previous collaborative efforts and is active across multiple projects
  • Note that special-event planning in Chicago also relies upon extensive interaction across multiple departments/sectors
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Questions and Discussion

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